public works (30·8 lakhs), military (13·8 lakhs), privy purse and courts (10·9 lakhs), scientific and minor departments (2·1 lakhs), and land revenue (6·1 lakhs). The State is very prosperous, and has more than 46 lakhs invested in securities of the Government of India. 652

Currency. 436

The British rupee is now the only rupee used in the State. Previously three coins were current: namely, the *khām* rupee, value 8 annas, bearing the letters J.H.S. (these letters have given rise to many stories, but they were really a mint-mark to indicate Jammu, Hari Singh); the *chilki* rupee, value 10 British annas; the *Nānak shāhi* rupee, value 12–16 British annas.

Weights and measures. 804

The *kharwar* or ass-load, which has for centuries past been the standard of weight, is equivalent to 177⅜ lb. The word is usually abbreviated to *khar*. Land measures are calculated not by length and breadth, but by the amount of seed required by certain areas of rice cultivation. It has been found by measurements that the *kharwar* of land—that is, the rice area which is supposed to require a *kharwar's* weight of rice-seed—exactly corresponds to 4 British acres. For length, the following measure is used:—

1 *girā* = 2¼ inches.
16 *girās* = 1 *gaz*.
20 *girās* = 1 *gaz*, in measuring *pashmina* cloth.

There is no sealed yard measure in Srīnagar, but from frequent experiment it was found that the *gaz* of 16 *girās* is about ½ inch longer than the British yard.

Land revenue. Tenures. 423 651

The land revenue system has been described as *ryotwāri* in ruins. It is probable that the methods of administration introduced under Akbar led to a fictitious joint responsibility, but this was never fully accepted. The land was regarded as the absolute property of the State, and the cultivators were merely tenants holding from year to year, with no rights in the waste land. Within the village, however, the cultivators recognized the acquisition of what may be called a right of occupancy acquired by long prescription (*mīrās*). At the settlement which commenced in 1887 this custom was accepted by the State, and permanent hereditary rights were conferred on persons who agreed to pay the assessment fixed on the land entered in their names. The right is not alienable by sale or mortgage, and the holder is called an *asāmi*. Besides the ordinary village occupants there were grantees, but these have gradually been converted into *asāmis*.

Settlement. 651

Under the local Sultāns the State share of produce was

4: Durand G-8 (1888-93) 1900 AV1 Kashmir AV1
Dard AV3

D 791 has to seize the neck and drink the spouting blood. If successful in this, he or she is at once recognised as inspired. If the ordeal is too much, then a contemptuous pity is extended to the aspirant, as to one who has been on the verge of attaining to great things, but has failed owing to personal defect. Those who cannot fulfil the conditions are said invariably in the end to go mad.

D 135 316 The Bagrot valley, where we saw the Dainyal, was further of interest in that about the best gold of the country is found in its bed, and in the Gilgit river below where the Bagrot stream runs in. Every year, after the summer floods are over, the deposits in back waters and sand-banks are carefully washed, and a fair amount of gold, considering the rough methods and unskilled labour of the prospectors, is collected.

K 661 When we first went to Gilgit pure gold was selling there at two-thirds its price in Srinagar, and the Kashmir officials and soldiers were doing a profitable trade. The amount collected by the officials each year must have been considerable. Every petitioner or visitor, as a rule, presented his little *nazzar*—the complimentary offering from an inferior to a superior

K 436 always given in the East—in gold dust. The gold was poured into the blossom of a dried flower like a lupin, of a very tough texture. The mouth of the flower was screwed together, and the tiny packet was popped into another flower, and again screwed

K 661 up, each packet containing a recognised weight. I have had double handfuls of the little packets poured on to my table by an anxious royal petitioner, an unsatisfactory arrangement so far as I was concerned, for my *nazzars* were returned to the donors. A

Ld Lawrence G-3 (1888-1895) 1895 AV4 Kashmir AV4
Kashmir AV4

Kr 436

CHAP. IX. and silver played a subsidiary part in the business of the country. It is unfortunate, for the purpose of statistics, that the exact amount of coin minted by the State for use in Kashmír, as distinct from Jammu and other parts of H. H. the Mahárájá's territories, cannot be shown, but the following figures give the value, in British rupees, of the Chilki rupees coined since 1888 for the currency in Jammu and Kashmír. In the mint at Jammu, silver bullion is used as well as old uncurrent coin, and it may be taken that bullion forms one-third of the material used.

	Value in British Rupees of Chilki Rupees coined.
1888	2,88,522
1889	2,88,240
1890	1,59,442
1891	3,09,471
1892	3,81,171
1893	4,54,423

Ki 436

Beside the Chilki rupee, value 10 annas, a considerable number of British rupees are in circulation. These British rupees are brought into Kashmír by European visitors, and an examination of the currency in which the land revenue is paid shows that of late years a respectable part of payments made by the villagers has been in British coin. The number of European visitors is steadily increasing; and the number of permanent European residents, which in 1888 was practically represented by the Missionaries, is now considerable. Payments made by Europeans are necessarily made in cash, and though the amounts spent by them sink into insignificance when compared with the amount spent on public works, they are of importance, and have formed one among other causes leading to the substitution of a silver for a grain currency.

Ki 652

In 1889 the road from Kohala to Baramula was opened. Apart from the easier access given by this road to visitors and to trade, its construction has brought out Rs. 21,78,870 from the State boards and has thrown this large amount of coin into circulation. Next, the road from Srinagar to Gilgit has similarly withdrawn from the State treasury a sum of Rs. 15,18,060, while Rs. 6,50,000 are annually spent on the purchase of grain, hire of carriage, and wages of labour in the valley of Kashmír for the supply of the Gilgit garrison.

The amount which will be spent on the Srinagar waterworks for wages will be about Rs. 3,05,000.

Ki 458

When it is remembered that all this coin has been suddenly thrown into circulation within the brief period of about five years, and when it is considered that the old system of paying the army and officials in grain has given place to regular cash payments, and that, in addition